

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1 and 10-12 have been amended. Claims 2, 9 and 13 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-8, 9-12 and 14 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

Pursuant to a telephone call to the Examiner on April 28, 2006, the objection to the specification is deemed to be in error. Therefore, no changes to the Specification are presented herein. Formal withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

On page 5 of the Action, the Examiner notes that claim 2, 8 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include the limitations of their base and any intervening claims.

It is assumed that the Examiner mistakenly included the requirement of overcoming the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, since no claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 in this Action.

Furthermore, independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claims 2 and 13, respectively.

Therefore, the rejections of independent claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are considered moot, and it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 12, as well as the pending dependent claims, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Serial No. 10/620,385

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: May 1, 2006

By: Michael P. Stanley
Michael P. Stanley
Registration No. 58,523

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501